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Killian earns 100th mat victory

By ANDY MEASE
For the Daily News
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WEST LAWN - Among the goals of every high-school wrestler is reaching the 100-win plateau.

Friday night at Wilson High School, Annville-Cleona 140-pounder Dylan Killian hit that milestone with a pin in 1:28 over Palmerton's Dan Costenbader. The win propelled Killian (34-7) into today's semifinals in the PIAA Class AA Southeast Regional tournament.

"It (win 100) means that I've done my part for the team," said a humble Killian on his 100th victory. "It also means I'm in the semifinals. That's all it means. It's just another match, and I went out there and, well, it just happened."

In his quarterfinal bout, Killian was nearly taken down early on by Costenbader but was able to spin around to take control and collect a takedown to go up 2-0 early. Shortly after the takedown, Killian locked in a cross-face cradle and turned Costenbader to his back. Soon after, Killian settled into position to pick up the fall at 1:28.

"He got in a good position there, and 100 wins is very special," said Annville-Cleona coach Mike Miller on Killian. "If you look at his bracket, all four semifinalists are District Three guys. He's got a tough road ahead of him, and first up is a kid he beat two weeks ago at sectionals. He's gotta take it one at a time."

Killian's first opponent today is Juniata's Seth Beitz, whom he pinned in 1:46 two weeks ago in the sectional tournament. Killian heads into tomorrow's action needing a single victory to qualify for states. The AA Southeast Regional

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sends five wrestlers to next week's tournament.

"You look at it as one win, and I look at it as three chances," said Killian on his opportunity to make the PIAA Class AA field. "I have a good chance to make it, so that's making me feel pretty good right now. He (Seth Beitz) has been waiting for this match because I caught him. Everyone thought it would be a better match then it ended up being. I'm looking forward to it, and hopefully I come out on top."

Fellow Little Dutchman Tony Yohe also remained alive in the 112-pound portion of the bracket. After losing his opening match by pinfall to Northwestern Lehigh's Dylan Long in 2:57, he responded to defeat Biglerville's Trevor Hernandez 7-5 in the first round of consolations. The victory comes as a moral booster for Yohe (33-10) as he was defeated by Hernandez at districts last week by being tech-failed 15-0 in 2:50.

"He (Hernandez) beat him twice last year, too," said coach Miller on Yohe's victory over Hernandez. "The victory should help him, but at this point everyone is

good, so we'll take it one at a time."

The third of the trio of Little Dutchmen, Christian Shifflett, didn't fare as well in the 125-pound weight class. Shifflett (36-9) went 0-2 on the evening, losing to Justin Mazza of St. Pius X by pin in 1:06 and dropping a tight 9-8 decision to Tri Valley's Ty Shoffstall.

"Chris had a tough break there," Miller said of Shifflett's consolation bout against Shoffstall. "If they wrestled 10 times, it would end up five apiece. Unfortunately for Chris he wasn't able to get it."

Wrestling begins tomorrow at Wilson High School at 9:30 a.m. with the semifinals and first- and second-round consolations. The consolation finals and finals are slated to begin at 4:15 p.m. Doors open at 8:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m., respectively, for the event.

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